What is claimed is:

1.   A method for managing the connection of a plurality of devices which are point-to-point connected by a digital interface, the method comprising:

(a) a second device, which establishes a point-to-point connection between an arbitrary first device and another device, receiving a connection release request command requesting the second device to break the point-to-point connection from the first device;

(b) the second device breaking the point-to-point connection in response to the connection release request command.

2.   The method of claim 1, prior to (b), further comprising (p-b-1) the second device analyzing the connection release request command to determine whether the point-to-point connection previously established by itself,

wherein (b) comprises (b') if it is determined that the point-to-point connection is a point-to-point connection previously established by the second device, the second device breaking the point-to-point connection.

3.   The method of claim 2, wherein (b') comprises:

(b'-1) if it is determined that the point-to-point connection is a point-to-point connection previously established by the second device, a user determining whether to break the point-to-point connection by the second device;

(b'-2) if the user determines to break the connection in (b'-1), the second device breaking the point-to-point connection established between the first device and another device; and

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8   (b'-3) if the user determines not to break the connection in (b'-1), the second device

9   maintaining the point-to-point connection established between the first device and another

10   device.

1   4.   The method of claim 3, wherein (b'-1) comprises:

2   (b'-1-1) if the point-to-point connection is determined to be a point-to-point

3   connection previously established by the second device, the second device indicating whether

4   to break the point-to-point connection on a predetermined display device; and

5   (b'-1-2) the second device receiving a determination on whether to break the point-to-

6   point connection by the second device from the user.

5   5.   The method of claim 1, wherein the connection release request command

2   includes a plug type field which indicates the plug type of the first device in the presently

3   established point-to-point connection, and a plug identification field which indicates the plug

4   identifier of the first device as an operand.

1   6.   The method of claim 1, wherein the connection release request command is an

2   audio-video control command defined within an audio-video control command transaction

3   set.

1   7.   The method as in any one of claims 1-6, wherein the digital interface conforms

2   to the IEEE 1394 standard.